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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/158,728	09/22/1998	STEVEN CRAIG WEIRATHER	2419-US-B1	4296

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EXAMINER	
NORDMEYER, PATRICIA L	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1788	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/28/2012	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/158,728	WEIRATHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PATRICIA NORDMEYER	1788	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *22 August 2011*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5)☒ Claim(s) *See Continuation Sheet* is/are pending in the application.

5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

7)☒ Claim(s) *548-564,566,567,569-584,586,588,590-604,606-627,629-643,645-662,664,666-674,676-695,697-709 and 711-729* is/are rejected.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

9)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 548-564,566,567,569-584,586,588,590-604,606-627,629-643,645-662,664,666-674,676-695,697-709 and 711-729.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 22, 2011 has been entered.

Withdrawn Rejections

Any rejections and or objections, made in the previous Office Action, and not repeated below, are hereby withdrawn due to Applicant's arguments and amendments in the response dated August 22, 2011.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 548 - 567, 569 – 571, 574 – 578, 580 – 584, 586, 588, 590 – 604, 606 – 611, 614 – 618, 620 - 627, 629 – 643, 645 – 649, 652 – 656, 658 - 662, 664, 666– 674, 676 – 680, 683, 684, 686 – 695, 697 – 709, 711 – 714, 717 – 720 and 722 - 729 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Cross (USPN 4,863,772) in view of Popat et al. (USPN 5,407,718).

Cross discloses printable business card sheet (Column 1, lines 8 – 9), comprising: a laminate sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5) including a facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #17) and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #23); the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17); the laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer (Figures 4 and 5, #13); the facestock sheet being a cardstock sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17; Column 1, lines 8 – 9, wherein if the product functions as an identification card, it is heavy duty material); facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction but not through-cut through the continuous sheet (Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); entire front faces of all of the printable business cards being blank (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53, wherein the end user may control when the sheets are printed); the laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53, wherein the end user may control when the sheets are printed); areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process) and thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the

printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner); a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing operation (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53); the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31; Column 3, lines 44 – 58) whose back side surfaces are non-tacky (Figure 5, wherein there is no adhesive or tacky material between the liner #23 and the film layer #13); the continuous sheet being directly adjacent to the back side of the film layer (Figures 4 and 5, #13 and 23), wherein the continuous sheet is a base paper sheet (Column 4, lines 6 – 8); the film layer being adhered to the facestock sheet with an adhesive layer (Figures 4 and 5, #13 and 15; Column 4, lines 30 – 35); and the film layer and the adhesive layer being adapted such that when a peeling force is applied to the printable business card sheet, the printable business card sheet delaminates at an interface of the film layer and the continuous sheet (Figure 5) and whereby the laminate sheet construction is a dry laminate sheet construction (Column 3, lines 42 – 43; Figure 5, wherein there is no adhesive or tacky material between the liner #23 and the film layer #13) as in claim 548. With regard to claim 549, the laminate sheet construction is free of adhesive between the film layer and the continuous sheet (Figure 5, #13 and 23). For claim 554, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet and covers all of the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). In claim 555, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier

sheet which extends the entire width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). Regarding claim 558, the film layer is a polyethylene layer (Figure 5, #13; Column 4, line 30 – 33). As in claim 563, the continuous sheet covers an entire back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). With regard to claim 564, the through-cut lines define all of the perimeter edges of all of the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). For claim 577, the continuous sheet is secured directly to a back side of the film layer and the back side of the continuous sheet defines a back surface of the printable business card sheet (Figure 5, #13 and 23). In claim 578, the areas of the continuous sheet cover the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). Regarding claim 580, the continuous sheet

carries the facestock sheet construction and thereby defines a carrier sheet and/or wherein the continuous sheet includes a continuous liner sheet (Figure 5). As in claim 582, the film layer is between the facestock sheet and the continuous sheet (Figure 5, #13). With regard to claim 583, the film layer forms the back side surfaces of the printed business cards (Figure 5, #13). For claim 584, the facestock sheet construction includes the film layer (Figure 5, #13). For claim 586, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet coextensive with the width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). In claim 588, the continuous sheet is bonded to the film layer without adhesive (Figure 5, #13 and 23, wherein there is no adhesive present between the layers). Cross

further discloses a printable business card sheet (Column 1, lines 8 – 9), comprising: a laminate sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5) including a facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #17) and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #23); the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17); the laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer (Figures 4 and 5, #13); the facestock sheet being a cardstock sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17; Column 1, lines 8 – 9, wherein if the product functions as an identification card, it is heavy duty material); the continuous sheet consists of a base paper sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #23; Column 4, lines 6 – 8); facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction but not through-cut through the continuous sheet Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); the laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53, wherein the end user may control when the sheets are printed); areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process) and thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner); a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing

operation (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53); the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31; Column 3, lines 44 – 58) whose back side surfaces are non-tacky (Figure 5, wherein there is no adhesive or tacky material between the liner #23 and the film layer #13); and the laminate sheet construction being free of adhesive between the film layer and the continuous sheet (Column 3, lines 42 – 43; Figure 5, wherein there is no adhesive or tacky material between the liner #23 and the film layer #13) as in claim 590. With regard to claim 591, the laminate sheet construction includes adhesive between and attaching the film layer to the facestock sheet ((Figure 5, #17, 15 and 13). For claim 594, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet and covers all of the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). In claim 595, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet which extends the entire width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). Regarding claim 598, the film layer is a polyethylene layer (Figure 5, #13; Column 4, line 30 – 33). As in claim 603, the continuous sheet covers an entire back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). With regard to claim 604, the through-cut lines define all of the perimeter edges of all of the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). For claim 608, the facestock sheet construction includes an adhesive layer between the facestock sheet and the film layer (Figure 5, #13, 15 and 17). As in claim 617,

the continuous sheet is secured directly to a back side of the film layer and the back side of the continuous sheet defines a back surface of the printable business card sheet (Figure 5, #13 and 23). In claim 618, the areas of the continuous sheet cover the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). Regarding claim 620, the continuous sheet carries the facestock sheet construction and thereby defines a carrier sheet and/or wherein the continuous sheet includes a continuous liner sheet (Figure 5). As in claim 622, the film layer is between the facestock sheet and the continuous sheet (Figure 5, #13). With regard to claim 623, the film layer forms the back side surfaces of the printed business cards (Figure 5, #13). For claim 624, the facestock sheet construction includes the film layer (Figure 5, #13). Regarding claim 625, the continuous sheet is directly attached to the back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figure 5, #11 and 21). For claim 626, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet coextensive with the width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). In claim 627, the laminate sheet construction is a dry laminate sheet construction (Figure 5, #13 and 23, wherein there is no adhesive present between the layers). Cross also discloses a printable business card sheet (Column 1, lines 8 – 9), comprising: a dry laminate sheet construction (Column 3, lines 42 – 43; Figure 5, wherein there is no adhesive or tacky material between the liner #23 and the film layer #13) including a facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #17) and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #23); the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17); the dry laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer (Figures 4 and 5, #13); the facestock sheet being a cardstock

sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17; Column 1, lines 8 – 9, wherein if the product functions as an identification card, it is heavy duty material); facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction to the back side but not through-cut through the continuous sheet (Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); the dry laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53, wherein the end user may control when the sheets are printed); areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process) and thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation(Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner); a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing operation (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53); the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31; Column 3, lines 44 – 58) whose back side surfaces are non-tacky (Figure 5, wherein there is no adhesive or tacky material between the liner #23 and the film layer #13); the film layer being directly adjacent to the continuous sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #13 and 23), the continuous sheet consists of a

base paper sheet (Column 4, lines 6 – 8); and the film layer and the continuous sheet forming a delamination interface for the printable business cards (Figure 5) as in claim 629. With regard to claim 631, the laminate sheet construction includes adhesive between and attaching the film layer to the facestock sheet ((Figure 5, #17, 15 and 13). For claim 633, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet and covers all of the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). In claim 634, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet which extends the entire width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). Regarding claim 637, the film layer is a polyethylene layer (Figure 5, #13; Column 4, line 30 – 33). As in claim 642, the continuous sheet covers an entire back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). With regard to claim 643, the through-cut lines define all of the perimeter edges of all of the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). As in claim 655, the continuous sheet is secured directly to a back side of the film layer and the back side of the continuous sheet defines a back surface of the printable business card sheet (Figure 5, #13 and 23). In claim 656, the areas of the continuous sheet cover the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). Regarding claim 658, the continuous sheet carries the facestock sheet construction and thereby defines a carrier sheet and/or wherein the continuous sheet includes a continuous liner sheet (Figure 5). For claim 660, the facestock sheet construction includes the film layer (Figure 5, #13). Regarding claim 661, the continuous sheet

is directly attached to the back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figure 5, #11 and 21). For claim 662, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet coextensive with the width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). Cross discloses a printable business card sheet (Column 1, lines 8 – 9), comprising: a laminate sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5) including a facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #17) and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #23); the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17); the laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer (Figures 4 and 5, #13); the facestock sheet being a cardstock sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17; Column 1, lines 8 – 9, wherein if the product functions as an identification card, it is heavy duty material); facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction but not through-cut through the continuous sheet (Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); the laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53, wherein the end user may control when the sheets are printed); areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process) and thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets

may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner); a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing operation (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53); the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31; Column 3, lines 44 – 58) whose back side surfaces are non-tacky (Figure 5, wherein there is no adhesive or tacky material between the liner #23 and the film layer #13); and the continuous sheet being bonded directly to the film layer without adhesive (Column 3, lines 42 – 43; Figure 5, wherein there is no adhesive or tacky material between the liner #23 and the film layer #13), the continuous sheet is-consists of a base paper sheet (Column 4, lines 6 – 8) as in claim 664. For claim 667, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet and covers all of the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). In claim 668, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet which extends the entire width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). Regarding claim 671, the film layer is a polyethylene layer (Figure 5, #13; Column 4, line 30 – 33). As in claim 673, the continuous sheet covers an entire back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). With regard to claim 674, the through-cut lines define all of the perimeter edges of all of the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). As in claim 677, the facestock sheet construction includes an

adhesive layer between the facestock sheet and the film layer (Figure 5, #13, 15 and 17). As in claim 683, the continuous sheet is secured directly to a back side of the film layer and the back side of the continuous sheet defines a back surface of the printable business card sheet (Figure 5, #13 and 23). In claim 684, the areas of the continuous sheet cover the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). Regarding claim 686, the continuous sheet carries the facestock sheet construction and thereby defines a carrier sheet and/or wherein the continuous sheet includes a continuous liner sheet (Figure 5). With regard to claim 688, the film layer is between the facestock and the continuous sheet (Column #17, 13 and 23). For claim 689, the film layer forms the back side surfaces of the business cards (Figures 1A – 1C; Figure 5, #13). For claim 690, the facestock sheet construction includes the film layer (Figure 5, #13). Regarding claim 691, the continuous sheet is directly attached to the back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figure 5, #11 and 21). For claim 692, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet coextensive with the width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). As in claim 693, the film layer is adhered to the facestock sheet with adhesive (Figure 5, #13, 15 and 17) and the film layer and the adhesive are adapted so that the printable business card sheet delaminates at an interface of the film layer and the continuous sheet (Figure 5, #13 and 23) and whereby the laminate sheet construction is a dry laminate sheet construction (Figure 5, #13 and 23, wherein there is no adhesive between the film layer and the continuous sheet). With regard to claim 694, the film layer and the adhesive are adapted so that the laminate sheet construction delaminates at an interface of the film layer and the continuous sheet (Figure 5, #13 and 23) and whereby the

laminate sheet construction is a dry laminate sheet construction (Figure 5, #13 and 23, wherein there is no adhesive between the film layer and the continuous sheet) and/or wherein the film layer and the continuous sheet form a delamination interface for the printed business cards and whereby the laminate sheet construction is a dry laminate sheet construction (Figure 5, #13 and 23, wherein there is no adhesive between the film layer and the continuous sheet). Cross further discloses a printable business card sheet (Column 1, lines 8 – 9), comprising: a laminate sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5) including a facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #17) and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 4 and 5, #23); the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17); the laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer (Figures 4 and 5, #13); the facestock sheet being a cardstock sheet (Figures 4 and 5, #17; Column 1, lines 8 – 9, wherein if the product functions as an identification card, it is heavy duty material); the continuous sheet consists of a base paper sheet (Column 4, lines 6 – 8); facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction but not through-cut through the continuous sheet (Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31 and 23; Column 3, lines 48 – 68); the laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53, wherein the end user may control when the sheets are printed); areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process) and

thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner); a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing operation (Column 3, lines 57 – 61; Column 4, lines 47 – 53); the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards (Figures 1A – 1C, #31; Column 3, lines 44 – 58) whose back side surfaces are non-tacky (Figure 5, wherein there is no adhesive or tacky material between the liner #23 and the film layer #13); and wherein the continuous sheet being directly adjacent to the back side of the film layer (Figures 4 and 5, #13 and 23), the laminate sheet construction is adapted to delaminate at an interface of the film layer and the continuous sheet and/or wherein the film layer and the continuous sheet form a delamination interface for the printable business cards (Figure 5) as in claim 695. For claim 699, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet and covers all of the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). In claim 700, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet which extends the entire width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). Regarding claim 703, the film layer is a polyethylene layer (Figure 5, #13; Column 4, line 30 – 33). As in claim 708, the continuous sheet covers an entire back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). With regard to claim

709, the through-cut lines define all of the perimeter edges of all of the printable business cards (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). As in claim 711, the facestock sheet construction includes an adhesive layer between the facestock sheet and the film layer (Figure 5, #13, 15 and 17). As in claim 719, the continuous sheet is secured directly to a back side of the film layer and the back side of the continuous sheet defines a back surface of the printable business card sheet (Figure 5, #13 and 23). In claim 720, the areas of the continuous sheet cover the back sides of all of the through-cut lines (Column 3, lines 44 – 58, wherein the sheets may be printed before removal of the excess material from the liner). Regarding claim 722, the continuous sheet carries the facestock sheet construction and thereby defines a carrier sheet and/or wherein the continuous sheet includes a continuous liner sheet (Figure 5). With regard to claim 724, the film layer is between the facestock and the continuous sheet (Column #17, 13 and 23). For claim 725, the film layer forms the back side surfaces of the business cards (Figures 1A – 1C; Figure 5, #13). For claim 726, the facestock sheet construction includes the film layer (Figure 5, #13). Regarding claim 727, the continuous sheet is directly attached to the back side of the facestock sheet construction (Figure 5, #11 and 21). For claim 728, the continuous sheet is a solid carrier sheet coextensive with the width of the facestock sheet construction (Figures 1A – 1C; Column 3, lines 44 – 56, wherein the liner remains through the die-cutting process). As in claim 729, the film layer is adhered to the facestock sheet with adhesive (Figure 5, #13, 15 and 17) and the film layer and the adhesive are adapted so that the printable business card sheet delaminates at an interface of the film layer and the continuous sheet (Figure 5, #13 and 23) and whereby the laminate sheet construction is a dry laminate sheet construction (Figure 5, #13 and 23, wherein there is no

adhesive between the film layer and the continuous sheet). For claims 569, 609, 647, 678 and 712, the film layer is a low density polyethylene film, and the base paper sheet is a densified bleached kraft liner sheet (Column 4, lines 6 – 8). However, Cross fails to disclose the printable business cards being arranged in a grid on the facestock sheet construction, the grid including a column of printable business cards, and adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the column directly abut one another and share a common edge; the laminate sheet construction being rectangular with opposing side edges and opposing end edges; the business cards being in a central area block of the facestock sheet; a border portion of the laminate sheet construction surrounding the block and extending from ends of the through-cut lines to both of the side edges and to both of the end edges and the printable business cards being arranged in a grid; the grid including a first column of the printable business cards and a second column of the printable business cards; adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the first column directly abutting one another and sharing a common edge; the first and second columns directly side-by-side abutting one another, the business cards are in a central area block of the facestock sheet, and a border portion of the laminate sheet construction surrounds the block and extends from ends of the through-cut lines to all edges of the laminate sheet construction, the column defines a first column, the grid includes a second column of the printable business cards, and the first and second columns directly side-by-side abut one another, the laminate sheet construction is 8½ by 11 inches or has A4 width and length dimensions, the printable business cards form a block of printable business cards and the matrix waste portion forms a frame around the block, (a) the facestock sheet construction includes left and right side edges and first and second end edges, (b) the through-cut lines forming a grid which includes flame cut lines and

grid cut lines, (c) the flame cut lines include first and second cut lines spaced in from the left and right side edges respectively, and disposed parallel thereto, and first and second end cut lines spaced in from and parallel to the first and second end edges, both of the end cut lines engaging both of the side cut lines, the flame cut lines defining a central area on the facestock sheet construction, and (d) the grid cut lines and the flame cut lines separating the central area into the printable business cards, some of the grid cut lines extend across and outwardly of the first and second side cut lines, the through-cut lines include vertical and horizontal cut lines, wherein a top one of the horizontal cut lines extends a full width of the facestock sheet construction, the ends of the rest of the horizontal cut lines are spaced inwardly from the left and right side edges of the facestock sheet construction, the rest of the horizontal cut lines extend a distance out beyond the outermost of the vertical cut lines, the printable business cards are arranged in a two column matrix, and the two column matrix includes the column, the printable business cards in each column of the two column matrix abut adjacent printable business cards in the same column separated only by respective ones of the through-cut lines, the facestock sheet construction and the continuous sheet are both rectangular and have the same width and length dimensions, the continuous sheet includes a flexibility line extending a width thereof, the flexibility line is a cut line, the flexibility line is proximate to an end of the continuous sheet, the printable business cards form a block of printable business cards and the matrix waste portion forms a frame around the block, and wherein the facestock sheet construction and the continuous sheet are both rectangular and have the same width dimensions, the adhesive layer is a hot melt adhesive layer, the film layer is approximately 0.8 mil thick.

Popat et al. teach label sheets used for printing with personal computers (Column 1, lines 12 – 19); wherein the label sheets comprise a sheet construction that comprises a label layer, i.e. facestock sheet construction, and an adhesive layer, and backing layer (col. 2, lines 64-68), which acts as a release liner (col. 3, lines 18-19), i.e. carrier sheet; the label sheet has facestock continuous through-cut lines (die cut lines, col. 3, line 15) that pass through the facestock sheet construction to the back side but not through-cut through the carrier sheet (col. 3, lines 15-21) and that the through-cut lines are deemed to define at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards (figure 1); labels being arranged in a grid on the facestock sheet construction (Figure 1), the grid including a column of printable labels (Figure 1), and adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the column directly abut one another and share a common edge (Figure 1); the laminate sheet construction being rectangular with opposing side edges and opposing end edges (Figure 1); the labels being in a central area block of the facestock sheet (Figure 1); a border portion of the laminate sheet construction surrounding the block and extending from ends of the through-cut lines to both of the side edges and to both of the end edges and the labels being arranged in a grid (Figure 1); the grid including a first column of the labels and a second column of the labels (Figure 1); adjacent ones of the labels in the second column directly abutting one another and sharing a common edge (Figure 1); the first and second columns directly side-by-side abutting one another (Figure 1), the laminate sheet construction is 8½ by 11 inches (Column 5, lines 3 – 5), the printable business cards form a block of printable business cards and the matrix waste portion forms a frame around the block (Figure 1); (a) the facestock sheet construction includes left and right side edges and first and second end edges, (b) the through-cut lines forming a grid

which includes flame cut lines and grid cut lines, (c) the flame cut lines include first and second cut lines spaced in from the left and right side edges respectively, and disposed parallel thereto, and first and second end cut lines spaced in from and parallel to the first and second end edges, both of the end cut lines engaging both of the side cut lines, the flame cut lines defining a central area on the facestock sheet construction, and (d) the grid cut lines and the flame cut lines separating the central area into the printable business cards (Figure 1); some of the grid cut lines extend across and outwardly of the first and second side cut lines (Figure 1), the through-cut lines include vertical and horizontal cut lines (Figure 1), wherein a top one of the horizontal cut lines extends a full width of the facestock sheet construction (Figure 1, #34), the ends of the rest of the horizontal cut lines are spaced inwardly from the left and right side edges of the facestock sheet construction (Figure 1); the printable business cards are arranged in a two column matrix, and the two column matrix includes the column (Figure 1), the printable business cards in each column of the two column matrix abut adjacent printable business cards in the same column separated only by respective ones of the through-cut lines (Figure 1), the facestock sheet construction and the continuous sheet are both rectangular and have the same width and length dimensions (Figures 1 and 2), the continuous sheet includes a flexibility line extending a width thereof (Figure 1, #34; Column 3, lines 1 – 4), the flexibility line is a cut line Figure 1, #34; Column 3, lines 1 – 4), the flexibility line is proximate to an end of the continuous sheet (Figure 1, #34) for the purpose of providing multiple labels/cards on one sheet and to help facilitate ease of feeding into complex printer paths, such as those found on laser printers (Column 3, lines 1-4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to have provided the grid arrangement of the through-cut lines in Cross in order to provide multiple labels/cards on one sheet and to help facilitate ease of feeding into complex printer paths, such as those found on laser printers as taught by Popat et al.

With regard to the limitation of "the rest of the horizontal cut lines extend a distance out beyond the outermost of the vertical cut lines, " it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to change the configuration of the through-cut lines, since a modification would have involved a mere change in size of the of the cut lines. A change in size or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art, absent unexpected results. MPEP 2144.04 (I) and (IV).

With regard to the limitation of "the adhesive layer is a hot melt adhesive layer", it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use these common material, since the selection of a known material based on its suitability for its intended use is prima facie obvious. MPEP 2144.07.

With regard to the limitation of "the film layer is approximately .8 mil thick", wherein the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges in thickness involve only routine skill in the art, absence a showing of criticality. MPEP 2144.05 II.

1. Claims 572, 573, 612, 613, 650, 651, 681, 682, 715 and 716 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cross (USPN 4,863,772) in view of Popat et al. (USPN 5,407,718) as applied to claims 548, 590, 629, 664 and 695 above, and further in view of Hickenbotham et al. (USPN 4,704,317).

Cross, as modified with Popat et al., disclose the claimed printable business card sheet except for an infeed edge of the printable business card sheet, along an entire width of the sheet, is thinner than a body of the sheet and a lead-in edge of the printable business card sheet is calendered to improve feeding of the printable business card sheet into the printer or copier for the printing operation.

Examiner's comment: The limitation "the lead-in edge of the printable business card sheet is calendared" is a process limitation. However, this process limitation does add structure to the end product by crushing, compressing, making the calendared end thinner. For purposes of examination, any process that results in a crushed, compressed or thinner end is taken to anticipate the limitation "the lead-in edge of the printable business card sheet is calendared," since the method of forming the product is not germane to the issue of patentability of the product itself.

Hickenbotham discloses crushing the comer of label stock for use in printers or copier to provide a diagonal path of relatively low stiffness (col. 6, lines 9-16). The low stiffness in the

front edge of the sheet allows the sheet to be dispensed through the printer or copier with greater easier (col. 1, lines 38-51).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to crush the edge of the sheet suggested by the combination of the modified Cross above, as taught by Hickenbotham, in order to make the edge thinner than the rest of the sheet and to facilitate dispensing. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to crush the edge of the sheet because crushing the edge would provide a path of relatively low stiffness and would make the sheet easier to be dispensed through a printer as taught by Hickenbotham at col. 1, lines 38-51. It is desirable to have the sheet be easily dispensed through a printer so that the sheet does not get jammed in the printer.

2. Claims 579, 619, 657, 685 and 721 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cross (USPN 4,863,772) in view of Popat et al. (USPN 5,407,718) as applied to claims 548, 590, 629, 664 and 695 above, and further in view of Carlson (USPN 5,842,722).

Cross, as modified with Popat et al., disclose the claimed printable business card sheet except for wherein the top surface of the facestock sheet construction comprises a top coating, and the top coating forms a printer or copier print-receptive surface of each of the printable business cards.

Carlson discloses a printable laminate useful in forming die-cut identification cards, labels, etc. (col. 1, lines 16-18). The printable laminate includes die cut cards, which are coated

with an ink receptive coating (col. 19, line 50 through col. 20, line 3). The ink receptive coating provides good ink image retention and adhesive retention (col. 20, lines 1-3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add Carlson's ink receptive coating to the facestock sheet construction suggested by the modified Cross in order to enhance the adhesion of the ink to the label. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ Carlson's ink receptive coating because of the improved image retention and adhesive retention of the ink (col. 20, lines 1-3). It is desirable to enhance the adhesion of the ink to the label so that the ink would not rub off after being applied to the label.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 548-564,566,567,569-584,586,588,590-604,606-627,629-643,645-662,664,666-674,676-695,697-709 and 711-729 have been considered but are moot because the arguments against Eagon do not apply to any of the references being used in the current rejection. Please see the newly presented rejections in view of Cross.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PATRICIA NORDMEYER whose telephone number is (571)272-1496. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alicia Chevalier can be reached on (571) 272-1490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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